20. **Excise.** Tobacco is largely consumed in the State and brings in a considerable revenue to Government. The receipts for 1079 were Rs. 12,32,608 showing an increase of Rs. 92,842 over 1078.

21. **Abkari, Opium and Bhang.** The revenue derived from Abkari, Opium and Bhang was Rs. 8,49,786, an increase of Rs. 1,05, 845 over the previous year's revenue. In the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions the excise system of collecting Abkari revenue was in force; while the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions were worked under the farming system.

22. **Customs.** In 1865 an Interportal convention was entered into between Travancore and the British Government by which fiscal restrictions on trade between Travancore and British India were removed. As regards imports this State is bound under the convention to adopt the British tariff in its entirety. Travancore retains its own export tariff but its policy has been to keep the tariff as low as possible. With a view to encourage local industry in the manufacture of cocoanut oil, the tariff value put on the same on export was reduced in 1079 from Rs. 12 to Rs. 10 The receipts were Rs. 8,94,090 and the charges Rs. 30,973.

23. **Sanitation.** Up to 1894 the conservancy and sanitation of towns were regulated by executive rules and orders passed by Government from time to time. In that year a Regulation was passed to provide for the better sanitation of towns. This Regulation was amended in 1901 by Regulation III of 1076 which provides for the imposition of taxes for municipal purposes. Though the Regulation is in force in the five important towns in the State—Kottayam, Alleppey, Quilon, Trivandrum and Nagercoil, the system of local taxation has only recently been introduced in some of them and that on a very limited scale. The greater portion of the funds for the conservancy and improvement of these towns is provided by Government out of the general revenues. This I need not say is not fair to the general tax-payer. The people residing in towns should endeavour to meet their local wants out of taxes contributed by themselves without indenting on the State treasury. I am sure that you will all realize the necessity for taking a step forward in this direction and impress upon your fellow townsmen that the tax-payers in the rural districts cannot in justice be expected to contribute for purposes which do not benefit them. Government would in the meantime continue their contribution until the towns are able to raise their own funds for local purposes.

The special department under the charge of the Sanitary Commissioner embraces vaccination, vital statistics, rural sanitation and itinerant medical relief.

During the past year the number of births registered was 54,292 and that of deaths 42,293. The figures are only approximately correct, the registration of births and deaths not being compulsory. 1,50,117 persons were vaccinated during the year of whom over 13,000 were infants.

The year was exceptionally free from epidemics. Fever, diarrhœa and dysentery prevailed however to a considerable extent.

24. **Medical relief.** There were 22 hospitals, 20 dispensaries, 2 asylums for lunatics and lepers and 8 grant-in-aid dispensaries. The total number of in-patients treated during the year was 15,739, and of out-patients 6,07,904.

The Victoria Medical School for midwives at Quilon is doing good work. Nine students passed out last year and a new batch of eight stipendiaries is now under training. There are 32 midwives now employed in the Medical Department.

Recruitments of the medical staff are now confined to Licentiates and Graduates in the Superior Grade and Hospital Assistants in the Inferior Grade.

Two Hindu students are now undergoing a course of medical training in Edinburgh with the aid of State scholarships.

A small Veterinary Hospital was opened at the capital in 1888. 224 cases were admitted for treatment last year. This institution has been declared to be an Infirmary under Regulation IV of 1078 for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

25. **Education.** It is well known that in point of education Travancore is ahead of British India and other Native States. According to the last Census the

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